In the Claims

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present Application are shown below in numerical order whether or not an amendment has been made.

1.   **(Currently Amended)** A Web Services Directory ~~encoded on a computer-readable media, the Web Services Directory~~ comprising:

a computer-readable medium; and

a processor, the processor operable to execute a program of instructions encoded on the computer-readable medium, the program of instructions comprising:

at least one Business Entity object; and

at least one User object, wherein the at least one Business Entity object is arranged under the at least one User object.

2.   **(Currently Amended)** The Web Services directory as recited in claim 1, the program of instructions further comprising:

at least one Business Service object; and

at least one Binding Template object, wherein the at least one Business Service object is arranged under the at least one Business Entity object, and the at least one Binding Template object is arranged under the at least one Business Service object.

3.   **(Original)** The Web Services directory as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one Business Entity object is arranged under the at least one User object by virtue of at least one corresponding User Child object.

4.   **(Currently Amended)** The Web Services directory as recited in claim 1, the program of instructions further comprising at least one Domain object, wherein the at least one User object is arranged under the at least one Domain object.

5.   **(Original)** The Web Services directory as recited in claim 1, further comprising apparatus adapted to implement the Web Services directory, and in which Directory Services are invoked.

6.   **(Original)** The Web Services directory as recited in claim 5, wherein the Directory Services are invoked using at least one of X.500 and LDAP protocols.

7.   **(Previously Presented)** A Web Services system comprising:

a registry in which businesses may register, the registry comprising a hierarchical directory including at least one Business Entity object and at least one User object, the at least one Business Entity object being arranged under the at least one User object; and

a storage system for storing business information and accessible via the hierarchical directory.

8.   **(Currently Amended)** A Web Services system comprising:

a registry in which businesses may register, the registry comprising a hierarchical directory comprising:

at least one Domain object, wherein the at least one Domain object comprises a directory prefix name, and the at least one Domain object is a root object of the hierarchical directory;

at least one User object, wherein the at least one User object identifies a user account for managing at least one Business Entity object arranged under the at least one User object, and the at least one User object is arranged under the at least one Domain object;

the at least one Business Entity object, the at least one Business Entity object comprising at least one business name and at least one business contact, the at least one business contact comprising at least one business address; and

a storage system for storing business information and accessible via the hierarchical directory.

9.   **(Previously Presented)** The Web Services system as recited in claim 8, the hierarchical directory further comprising:

at least one Business Service object, wherein the at least one Business Service object comprises data identifying a technical service, and the at least one Business Service object is arranged under the at least one Business Entity object; and

at least one Binding Template object, wherein the at least one Binding Template object comprises data identifying a plurality of service specifications, and the at least one Binding Template object is arranged under the at least one Business Service object.

10.   **(Previously Presented)** The Web Services system as recited in claim 9, the hierarchical directory further comprising at least one TModel object, wherein the at least one TModel object comprises a keyed reference to the at least one Binding Template object, and the at least one TModel object is arranged under the at least one User object.